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Hello AAUW members! A big thank you to Mary Ross who has been our newsletter coordinator and has now handed off the newsletter coordination to me, Jennifer Long.

Any questions or concerns? Reply to this email or contact me directly, JenniferL91@hotmail.com.

Jennifer Long
AAUW ESK Newsletter Coordinator



Newsletter | January, 2023

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President's Message

Happy New Year wonderful branch members!

I am thankful for all of you as you helped our branch move forward our mission of advancing gender equity for women and girls through research, advocacy and education. A brief recap is below.

Led by Elena Cervantes and Linda Clay, we had our first Art Show / Fundraiser. It was a wonderful success—the venue was fun, we raised money for our scholarships, and reunited with each other for the first time in 2 years. In June we held our Scholarship event where we awarded our scholarships and heard a wonderful speaker. Our book club continues to meet monthly to increase our awareness of current topics and share friendships.

We also brought back day trips with the help of Debby Smith—

we visited the Hibel Cultural Center and had a fun day trip to Kingston on the ferry and had lunch together. We have welcomed new members and held two outreach events on the WSU/Everett campus. In December we held our annual holiday party and had our first 'Cocktail and Conversations' event.

I'm looking forward to what we can accomplish together in 2023!
Here's to a great new year.

Jodi Forsell
President

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Put These Dates in Your Calendar

Sunday, January 8, 2pm, "AAUW WA State Sustainability Meeting.
[More details here](#)

Friday, January 13, 1:30 - 3pm. Diversity Book Group will be at the home of Harriet Fuji. We'll discuss *Salt Houses* by Hala Alyan.

Saturday, January 14, 10am, Branch Meeting at Edmonds College, Snohomish Hall Room 338. Details in this newsletter.

Thursday, January 19, 3:30 - 5pm. Branch Board meeting via Zoom.

Tuesday, January 24, 8 - 9:30am. Online Panel Discussion hosted by AAUW WA Online Branch, on Working Mothers Across the Globe. [Register at this link](#)

Monday, January 30. AAUW WA State Lobby Day. [Program details available here](#).

Looking Ahead:

- Annual Meeting, AAUW WA State, will be held on *April 15-16, 2023*, in Walla Walla.



Membership Matters

The photo above was taken at our December 10 Holiday party at the home of Ann McNulty. There was a potluck lunch and a secret gift auction that raised money for our branch expenses.



Upcoming Programs

The January meeting should help give us a running start to the year. Our Public Policy Team Leader Sandra Distelhorst will bring us up-to-date on what is happening at Olympia, and what issues near and dear to the AAUW heart are included in this year's legislative bills. Sandra will also give us insight into a disturbing trend she has seen in proposed legislation, and how she is approaching the problem. Finally, we will be breaking into smaller discussion groups to address what direction we should give our legislators and about *our* priorities.

The month of January also ends with the AAUW Lobby Day on January 30. Lobby Day includes workshops and speakers organized by Washington State AAUW. This year's theme is ***Legislation and Gender Equity***. Come hear about the plans for not only Lobby Day, but opportunities all through the last week of January. If you've never been part of Lobby Day, you'll hear how you can be part of a group effort and get a new perspective on how we can be part of strengthening our home state.

Our January meeting is on the 14th, 10am at Edmonds College, Snohomish Hall, Room 338.

Meeting Snacks

We would like to ask for volunteers to bring treats to either the January or February meetings. Ideally, at least two persons would come forward to bring food each month. If you can contribute, please let Ann McNulty know, ann_mcnulty@msn.com.

February 11 Meeting on Madhubani Painting

Our February 11 branch meeting features Deepti Agrawal: *The Ancient Art of Madhubani Painting*. The women in a small region in Northeast India have been using Madhubani painting to tell the stories of their

lives. Depicting mythological and social scenes, every painting reflects the belief systems, cultural practices, and social arrangements of a specific era in history. After centuries of being limited to its region of origin, the art form is now being discovered by the urban populace worldwide and is fast emerging as a commercial art form.

Having practiced this style of art since childhood, artist Deepti Agrawal explores the changing forms, trends, and mediums of Madhubani painting over time, while also exploring the hidden tales behind some of its most popular artworks from the early 1900s. Agrawal provides a demo and a work-along session where participants practice the Madhubani style and learn more about its rich heritage. Come prepared to try your hand at the art form and have some fun!

The meeting will be on February 11, 10am at Edmonds College, Snohomish Hall, Room 338.

Ann McNulty
VP for Programs



Art Show Update

The Planning Team is in place and will begin meeting early in January.

The initial focus will be lining up sponsors for the event. The sponsors are a critical part for the success of the event. Having a small team to help with reaching out to businesses is important. If you have a connection with a business which you think might be willing to be a sponsor, please contact Linda or Elena. The sponsor levels for this year are as follows.

- *Platinum*: \$1,000
- *Gold*: \$500
- *Silver*: \$300
- *Bronze*: \$200

We also need someone who is willing to email those ‘you never know until you ask’ sponsor possibilities. For example, Rick Steves (polite decline last year due to needing to rebound from Covid losses), Kenmore Air, Boeing, or Starbucks. Because of last years’ success our branch will give \$10,000 in scholarships this year! Let’s keep the success going! Remember, let me know of potential sponsors or if you’re willing to send out a few emails eliciting support. Linda Clay, lindarclay@gmail.com, 425.293.7613.

Linda Clay (425.293.7613, lindarclay@gmail.com)

Elena Cervantes (425.293.4682, elena.cervantes1@gmail.com)

Art Show co-chairs



Outreach

Our December impromptu Cocktails & Conversation event was a hit! Attendees included a recent WSU Everett grad, an art teacher from the Marysville School District, and a member of the Washington House of Representatives for the 38th legislative district, among others.

The purpose of hosting the Cocktails & Conversation event in Everett had multiple functions: it served as a light, informational opportunity for folks to connect with existing members, helped us determine if hosting events after the 5pm workday would be viable for future gatherings, and helped to solidify our branch's reach throughout Snohomish County.

Most members of our branch are retired and with that comes the flexibility to attend gatherings during the conventional work week, and that flexibility is great! But it doesn't make us accessible to women still in the workforce who could be potential new members. That was one of the major reasons to host Cocktails & Conversation after the 5 o'clock hour.

There will be future Cocktail & Conversation events in the coming spring, and I hope you'll join us!

Elena Cervantes

Outreach Team Leader



Notes From the Board Meeting

In December the Branch Board met twice—one regularly scheduled meeting on December 15, and the other a special meeting on December 7 to reconsider the scholarships to be awarded in 2023.

December 15 Board Meeting

Sita Bhaskaran has agreed to take on the responsibility of branch secretary.

There was discussion of what kind of scholarship awards event to hold in 2023. The event in June 2022 was well attended, with an excellent keynote speaker, but was also expensive to host. Jodi will call an ad hoc committee to consider costs and benefits and to plan the 2023 event.

Our Public Policy Team is getting ready for Lobby Day / Week at the end of January. The WA State Public Policy Team has the work of reviewing and vetting proposed state bills to support due to staffing issues at national AAUW.

We will work on recruiting an Edmonds College staff member as our college liaison.

December 7 Special Board Meeting

In opening the special Board meeting, Jodi clarified how our branch goals relate to our scholarships for the 2022-2023 program year:

- To increase our membership and our visibility
- To reach out to diverse communities, including BIPoC, first-

generation students, and students entering fields where women are under-represented

With these goals in mind, we looked at how we can honor both the work of the Scholarship Team and the work of the Art Show Planning Team.

These changes were proposed and approved by the Board:

- Addition of a second college scholarship, to be awarded to a continuing WSU Everett student, in any field of study, with special attention to a first-generation student
- Expansion of eligibility for the three high school scholarships to include the Everett and Marysville School Districts

In 2023, five scholarships will be awarded to female students:

- One scholarship to an Edmonds College student continuing her study in a STEM field
- One scholarship to a continuing WSU Everett student, in any field, with preference given to a first-generation student
- Three scholarships to high school students planning STEM fields of study, graduating from schools in the Edmonds, Everett, or Marysville School Districts

Jodi Forsell
Interim note-taker



Diversity Book Group

Book group will meet on January 13 at 1:30pm at the home of Harriet Fuji. We will discuss *Salt Houses* by Hala Allan, a book about Palestinian displacement.



Public Policy Updates and Actions

I hope you will join us at our January 14 Branch meeting to talk about women's rights and gender equity, and the issues most important to you as an AAUW member.

Lobby Day 2023 Theme: Legislation and Gender Equity

Sign up for our Virtual Lobby Day on January 30. [Check out the program on the state website.](#) This is a super important year for women's rights and gender equity and Your Voice Matters. There is an alarming trend in Washington state to not report or even not collect gender data. Gender can be missing from the list or required demographics in bills. Even bills with a well-known gender problem may miss including gender. The Diversity in Clinical Trials bill ([SB 5723](#)) last session is an example of a bill that we tagged as "gender negative" as it was missing an important gender component.

This year we will be reviewing bills and tagging them as gender silent, gender neutral, gender positive and gender negative. Let's talk more

about that on January 14!

What can you do to get ready for AAUW-WA Lobby Day / Week?

Confirm your legislative district ([Find my District](#)). Check out our member roster where we added Legislative Districts. Let us know if we need to change yours!

Get to know your legislators and what committees they chair or sit on. Legislators only have the bandwidth to carefully review bills related to their committees or bills their constituents (YOU!) ask them to review and weigh in on. Your voice matters.

Sign up for our AAUW-WA Lobbyist Nancy Sapiro's weekly Legislative Update. This is the best way to keep up-to-date on AAUW-WA policy work during the session. The LU will include action alerts. **Your voice matters. Last session AAUW-ESK members made a big difference helping pass bills by signing in PRO.** Committee chairs called out the number of people who sign in PRO or CON. It matters! Sign up by clicking [here](#). The first LU will be sent Friday, January 13.

Sign up to visit your legislator during Lobby Day / Week. We will schedule virtual visits after the session starts to be held the week of January 30. Expect an email from your district leader.

Happy New Year!

Sandra Distelhorst
Public Policy Team Leader
aauw.esk.publicpolicy@gmail.com

A3E

Foundation for the Advancement of Education and Economic Equity

News about Foundation A3E

The Foundation for the Advancement of Education and Economic Equity ([Foundation A3E](#)) is seeking a new Board Member. The term will begin January 2023, effective on appointment by the Board. If anyone is interested, please submit an application, stating your qualifications and why you are interested in serving on the Board. The term being filled is a two (2) term, covering 2023 and 2024.

The Board will also elect Officers for the 2023 Board at the January meeting. The currently open position is President. Susan Teel, who has served as President of the A3E Board for the last two years, and previously served as a non-voting Member of the Board, is resigning at the end of her current term, December 2022. If you have any questions, please call Susan at 707.287.1442.

Susan M. Teel



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